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SUBJ: CHINA'S VIEW OF THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP (U)

(U) SUMMARY: The U.S.-Japan security relationship is the cornerstone for stability in the Asia-Pacific region and should not be viewed as a threat to China.

(U) KEY POINTS

- * (U) Japan's militaristic past is still fresh in the memories of many Chinese
- * (U) U.S.-Japan Security Treaty contributes toward the maintenance of peace in region
- * (U) April 96 U.S.-Japan joint declaration reaffirms commitment to stability in Asia

~~(S)~~ DISCUSSION

- * (U) Japan's militaristic past and previous wartime atrocities are still remembered by the Chinese people. Because of this, every action the Government of Japan takes to improve its military defensive capability is viewed from the Chinese perspective as contributing to the return of Japanese militarism.

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- * (U) The April U.S.-Japan Joint declaration on the security alliance for the 21st Century stressed the following:
 - ** the alliance represents no fundamental changes to the U.S.-Japan alliance which is defensive in nature and threatens no one
 - ** reaffirmed U.S. and Japan's continued commitment to the maintenance of freedom and the promotion of stability in the Asia-Pacific Region
 - ** The declaration contains no new missions for the Japanese Self Defense Force other than increased cooperation in PKO and humanitarian relief
 - ** importance of peaceful resolution of problems in the region
 - ** important that China play a positive and constructive role in the region
 - ** an interest in furthering cooperation with China

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